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FOREIGN AND INSULAR.

AUSTRIA.

Epidemic of enteric fever at Prague.

Consul Watts reports January 16, as follows: At the present time there exists at this place an epidemic of enteric fever to such a serious extent that the German deputies from this district have petitioned to Parliament, now in session at Vienna, to adopt means for the alleviation of the sufferers and against the spread of the disease; also, the governor of Bohemia has issued special orders to the same effect. The public announcement of cases and deaths, it is generally believed, does not give a true statement of the condition, only 9 deaths having been reported for the last week. The disease is principally attributed to the foul water of the Moldau River, which supplies the city, and to the drainage of the city, which is very bad. Improvements in the water, by bringing it from a distance, and in the drainage, have been loudly discussed for many years and 16,000,000 crowns have been voted for general improvements by the Austro-Hungarian Parliament, but nothing has been accomplished.

The ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

BARBADOS.

Smallpox situation.

Mr. James Sanderson, clerk general board of health and quarantine board, reports, January 17, as follows: Between the nights of the 2d and 16th instants 4 cases of smallpox have occurred, being 5 less than in the previous fortnight, and there have been 2 deaths and 18 discharges, leaving 15 under treatment last night. Only 1 of the 15 cases under treatment is on shore; the other 14 are at the quarantine station. There has not been a case of smallpox since the 10th instant.

The SURGEON-GENERAL.

CUBA.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Frick, at Matanzas, reports for the week ended January 31, a total of 7 deaths in the city. Mortality, 9.57. Mosquitoes present in large numbers. Six vessels inspected and given bills of health.

Acting Assistant Surgeon McConnell, at Nuevitas, reports February 3, smallpox officially declared at Lugareno.

The SURGEON-GENERAL.

GERMANY.

Death rate of Berlin and other cities.

Consul-General Mason reports from Berlin, January 23, January 24, and January 26, as follows: The death rate of Berlin for the week

ended January 10 was somewhat lower than that of the previous week, amounting to 16.7 per 1,000 of the population, being thus, however, considerably higher than in the corresponding week of last year, in which it only reached 15.3. Among the various large German cities, 9 showed more favorable health conditions than Berlin—for example, Dresden, Magdeburg, Charlottenburg (with 13.1), and Schöneberg (with 11.5 per 1,000). The mortality figures of Leipzig, Hanover, Hamburg, and Cologne, as well as of London and Paris, were all considerably higher than Berlin. The same remark applies to the death rate of Munich, Breslau, Königsberg, and Vienna. The deaths among children in their first year were more numerous in the present week than they have been since the end of September last. The fall in the mortality rate was therefore confined to the higher age classes. The death rate among infants amounted to 4.9 per 1,000, the same as in Munich and Hamburg, but not half so high as in Chemnitz. Acute intestinal diseases were unusually numerous for this season of the year, and caused considerably more deaths than in the New Year week—namely, 68. On the other hand, acute diseases of the respiratory organs showed a slight decrease, claiming 87 victims. Twelve deaths were caused by influenza, half the number of the foregoing week. There were registered 83 deaths from pulmonary consumption. The number of cases of scarlet fever and of diphtheria increased considerably, the former causing 10, the latter 2 deaths. Cases of measles were less frequent, causing 11 deaths. Finally, 2 persons died by violence.

Death rate of Berlin for the year 1902.

I have to report that the rate of mortality in Berlin was so low during the year 1902 that the total number of deaths was less by 3,000 than during the foregoing year. In the year 1902, the total number of deaths here amounted to only a little more than 30,700, while during the year 1901 there were registered, in round figures, 34,100 deaths—that is to say, there was a decrease in 1902 of 18 per 1,000 as compared with the preceding year. The decrease was most noticeable in the infant mortality, due largely to the cool summer of 1902. In the year 1901 there were registered more than 11,300 deaths among the children in their first year, while in 1902 not quite 9,000 deaths were recorded among that age class. The contrast was most apparent in the months of July and August, during which months in the year 1901 the total number of deaths among children in their first year amounted to 3,536; in 1902 in the same months only 1,521.

Plague and cholera in various countries.

Plague.

MAURITIUS.—During the five weeks, from November 7 to December 11, there were registered in the island 111 plague cases with 75 deaths.

BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA.—According to a report dated December 17, there were under treatment in the plague hospital at Durban on that date, 5 plague patients (3 Kaffirs and 2 Indians). The plague hospital is located on an island in the bay of Durban. Inasmuch as Durban, with its suburbs, is kept exceedingly clean, no fear is entertained of a spread of the epidemic.

QUEENSLAND.—According to the official bulletins published during the period from November 22 to November 28, 3 cases of plague were notified in Townsville, on November 24, 2 of which ended in death.